

We do not thank our Nation's law enforcement officers enough for the sacrifices they make in order to protect all of us. State and local police officers and all of our first responders deserve our support and respect. Their role is crucial in upholding the rule of law and keeping our Nation's citizens safe and secure. They help make our democracy possible. They are our here-at-home, day-in-and-day-out, real-life heroes.

Currently, more than 900,000 men and women who guard our communities do so at great risk. Since the first recorded police death in 1792, there have been more than 18,200 law enforcement officers who have made the ultimate sacrifice. There is lots of talk about the war on crime. Our law enforcement officers are all too often the casualties in that effort.

We are fortunate in Vermont that we rank as the State with the fewest officer deaths in history, with 19 recorded. But of course that is still 19 deaths too many. The pain and the suffering and the loss associated with every one of those is difficult for anyone to even imagine.

Last year, in 2007, 181 law enforcement officers died while serving in the line of duty. That is a regrettable and significant increase from 2006. Tragically, it is the most line-of-duty deaths since 2001 and the losses from September 11 of that year.

With crime having risen during the last few years after a decade of decline, and with law enforcement officers' deaths increasing, Congress must do more to strongly support State and local law enforcement officers and agencies. Federal programs can bolster police departments and their support for line officers. We should help provide greater access to bulletproof vests, state-of-the-art technology, improved training and advanced emergency medical care. I believe that there is strength in numbers when it comes to fighting violent crime, and Congress owes it to all Americans to support the men and women who are on the front lines keeping America safe.

I am proud of the work I have been involved in to help make it safer on the beat for our officers. Back in 1998, Senator Campbell and I authored the Bulletproof Vest Grant Partnership Act in response to the tragic Carl Drega shootout on the Vermont-New Hampshire border. Two State troopers who lacked bulletproof vests were killed. Since then, we have successfully reauthorized this program three more times: in the Bulletproof Vest Partnership Grant Act of 2000, in the State Justice Institute Reauthorization Act of 2004, and most recently as part of the Violence Against Women and Department of Justice Reauthorization Act of 2005. It is now authorized at \$50 million per year through fiscal year 2009 to help State, tribal and local jurisdictions purchase armor vests for use by law enforcement officers.

I hope all Senators will join me to ensure that the program is fully funded

for fiscal year 2009, and will also join with me to reauthorize this important program again this year. Bulletproof vests have saved the lives of thousands of officers and are a fundamental line of defense that no officer should be without. Hundreds of thousands of police officers are counting on us.

National Peace Officers Memorial Day will provide the people of the U.S., in their communities, in their State Capitals, and in the Nation's Capital, with the opportunity to honor and reflect on the extraordinary service and sacrifice given year after year by our police forces. During the week of May 15, more than 20,000 peace officers are expected to gather in Washington to join with the families of their fallen comrades. I hope all Senators will join me in honoring their service by approving this bipartisan resolution.

SENATE RESOLUTION 538—DESIGNATING APRIL 30, 2008, AS "DÍA DE LOS NIÑOS: CELEBRATING YOUNG AMERICANS", AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Mr. HATCH (for himself, Mr. CRAIG, Mr. LUGAR, Mr. COCHRAN, Mr. BROWN, Mr. DURBIN, and Mr. CRAPO) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 538

Whereas many nations throughout the world, and especially within the Western hemisphere, celebrate "Día de los Niños", or "Day of the Children", on the 30th of April, in recognition and celebration of their country's future—their children;

Whereas children represent the hopes and dreams of the people of the United States and are the center of American families;

Whereas children should be nurtured and invested in to preserve and enhance economic prosperity, democracy, and the American spirit;

Whereas, according to the latest Census report, there are more than 44,000,000 individuals of Hispanic descent living in the United States, nearly 15,000,000 of which are children;

Whereas Hispanics in the United States, the youngest and fastest growing ethnic community in the Nation, continue the tradition of honoring their children on this day, and wish to share this custom with the rest of the Nation;

Whereas the primary teachers of family values, morality, and culture are parents and family members, and we rely on children to pass on these family values, morals, and culture to future generations;

Whereas the importance of literacy and education are most often communicated to children through family members;

Whereas families should be encouraged to engage in family and community activities that include extended and elderly family members and that encourage children to explore and develop confidence;

Whereas the designation of a day to honor the children of the United States will help affirm for the people of the United States the significance of family, education, and community;

Whereas the designation of a day of special recognition for the children of the United States will provide an opportunity for children to reflect on their future, to articulate their aspirations, and to find comfort and security in the support of their family members and communities;

Whereas the National Latino Children's Institute, serving as a voice for children, has worked with cities throughout the country to declare April 30 as "Día de los Niños: Celebrating Young Americans", a day to bring together Hispanics and other communities nationwide to celebrate and uplift children; and

Whereas the children of a nation are the responsibility of all its people, and people should be encouraged to celebrate the gifts of children to society: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates April 30, 2008, as "Día de los Niños: Celebrating Young Americans"; and

(2) calls on the people of the United States to join with all children, families, organizations, communities, churches, cities, and States across the Nation to observe the day with appropriate ceremonies, including activities that—

(A) center around children, and are free or minimal in cost so as to encourage and facilitate the participation of all our people;

(B) are positive and uplifting and that help children express their hopes and dreams;

(C) provide opportunities for children of all backgrounds to learn about one another's cultures and to share ideas;

(D) include all members of the family, especially extended and elderly family members, so as to promote greater communication among the generations within a family, enabling children to appreciate and benefit from the experiences and wisdom of their elderly family members;

(E) provide opportunities for families within a community to get acquainted; and

(F) provide children with the support they need to develop skills and confidence, and to find the inner strength and the will and fire of the human spirit to make their dreams come true.

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 78—EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF CONGRESS THAT THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA AND ALL ENTERPRISES OWNED OR CONTROLLED BY THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA SHOULD MAKE PROPER DISCLOSURES WITH THE SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION REGARDING THE SELECTIVE DEFAULT STATUS OF CERTAIN BONDS

Mr. INHOFE submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. CON. RES. 78

Whereas sovereign debt obligations (in this resolution referred to as "bonds") of the Government of the People's Republic of China were offered and sold in the United States capital markets;

Whereas the bonds constitute full faith and credit sovereign obligations of the internationally recognized Government of the People's Republic of China;

Whereas the China subsequently defaulted on the bonds;

Whereas the United States Foreign Claims Settlement Commission determined that the bonds constitute an unpaid general obligation of the Government of the People's Republic of China;

Whereas under the successor government doctrine of settled international law (establishing the continuity of obligations among successor governments), the repayment obligation for the bonds is the obligation of the

Government of the People's Republic of China;

Whereas the Government of the People's Republic of China has been duly notified by representatives of the affiliated United States creditors of the demand for repayment of the bonds;

Whereas the Government of the People's Republic of China continues to refuse to repay the bonds held by United States citizens and has officially repudiated the debts; a clear violation of United States law, international law, rules and regulations of the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund, and the United Nations Charter;

Whereas the Government of the People's Republic of China honored repayment of the bonds held by British citizens while rejecting the claims of United States citizens;

Whereas the Government of the People's Republic of China, its state-owned enterprises, and other entities controlled by the People's Republic of China continue to enjoy open and unfettered access to the United States capital markets, while the Government of the People's Republic of China continues to reject the lawful claims of United States citizens;

Whereas the sales of securities in the United States capital markets issued by Chinese entities, including the Government of the People's Republic of China and its state-owned enterprises, fail to disclose both the existence of the defaulted debt of the Government of the People's Republic of China and the continued evasion of repayment of the bonds, the discriminatory treatment of United States citizens, and the People's Republic of China's repudiation of official debt;

Whereas the wrongful actions of the Government of the People's Republic of China are improperly concealed by the continuing publication of artificial "investment grade" sovereign credit rating classifications assigned to the Chinese government by the 3 primary Nationally Recognized Statistical Rating Organizations (NRSROs) and this concealment fails to conform to the published definitions of those Organizations;

Whereas the continued publication of artificial "investment grade" sovereign credit rating classifications assigned to the Government of the People's Republic of China provides an incentive to the Chinese government to avoid a negotiated settlement with United States citizens regarding China's default on its sovereign debt obligations;

Whereas the lack of transparency concerning the selective default of the Government of the People's Republic of China poses a material risk to the investing public and threatens the integrity of the United States capital markets; and

Whereas to provide relief to United States bondholders, restore transparency, uphold the rule of law, and affirm the validity of public debt contracts: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring), That it is the sense of Congress that the People's Republic of China and its government-owned and controlled enterprises should be required to properly disclose material information concerning the selective default status of these bonds in all prospectuses and filings with the Securities and Exchange Commission.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 4578. Mr. REID submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 2881, to amend title 49, United States Code, to authorize appropriations for the Federal Aviation Administration for fiscal years 2008 through 2011, to improve aviation safety and capacity, to provide stable funding for the national aviation system, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table.

TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

SA 4578. Mr. REID submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 2881, to amend title 49, United States Code, to authorize appropriations for the Federal Aviation Administration for fiscal years 2008 through 2011, to improve aviation safety and capacity, to provide stable funding for the national aviation system, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, add the following:

SEC. 715. OVERFLIGHTS IN GRAND CANYON NATIONAL PARK.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, for purposes of section 3(b)(1) of Public Law 100-91 (16 U.S.C. 1a-1 note), the substantial restoration of the natural quiet and experience of the Grand Canyon National Park (in this section referred to as the "Park") shall be considered to be achieved in the Park if, for at least 75 percent of each day, 50 percent of the Park is free of sound produced by commercial air tour operations that have an allocation to conduct commercial air tours in the Park as of the date of the enactment of this Act.

(b) **CONSIDERATIONS.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—For purposes of determining whether substantial restoration of the natural quiet and experience of the Park has been achieved in accordance with subsection (a), the Secretary of the Interior (in this section referred to as the "Secretary") shall use—

(A) the 2-zone system for the Park in effect on the date of the enactment of this Act to assess impacts relating to subsectional restoration of natural quiet at the Park, including—

(i) the thresholds for noticeability and audibility; and

(ii) the distribution of land between the 2 zones; and

(B) noise modeling science that is—

(i) developed for use at the Park;

(ii) validated by reasonable standards for conducting field observations of model results; and

(iii) accepted and validated by the Federal Interagency Committee on Aviation Noise.

(2) **SOUND FROM OTHER SOURCES.**—The Secretary shall not consider sound produced by sources other than commercial air tour operations, including sound emitted by other types of aircraft operations or other noise sources, for purposes of—

(A) making recommendations, developing a final plan, or issuing regulations relating to commercial air tour operations in the Park; or

(B) determining under subsection (a) whether substantial restoration of the natural quiet and experience of the Park has been achieved.

NOTICE OF HEARING

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Mr. BINGAMAN. Mr. President, I would like to announce for the information of the Senate and the public that a hearing has been scheduled before the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources. The hearing will be held on Tuesday, May 13, 2008, at 10 a.m., in room SD-366 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building.

The purpose of the hearing is to examine the impacts of climate change on the reliability, security, economics

and design of critical energy infrastructure in coastal regions.

Because of the limited time available for the hearing, witnesses may testify by invitation only. However, those wishing to submit written testimony for the hearing record may do so by sending it to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, United States Senate, Washington, D.C. 20510-6150, or by e-mail to Rosemarie Calabro@energy.senate.gov

For further information, please contact Alicia Jackson at (202) 224-3607 or Rosemarie Calabro at (202) 224-5039.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Foreign Relations be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Monday, April 28, 2008, at 4 p.m. to hold a nomination hearing.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

PRIVILEGES OF THE FLOOR

Mr. GRASSLEY. Madam President, I have a unanimous consent request that Michael Engel, a detailee to the Commerce Committee from the Federal Communications Commission; John Hennigan, a detailee to the Commerce Committee from the FAA; Pamela Friedmann, a detailee to the Commerce Committee from the Transportation Safety Administration; Harl Romine, a detailee to the Commerce Committee from the Coast Guard; and Charlotte Heike, a fellow for the Commerce Committee from the Sea Grant Fellowship, be granted the privilege of the floor on this bill.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

MAKING TECHNICAL CORRECTIONS TO NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2008

Ms. KLOBUCHAR. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Judiciary Committee be discharged from further consideration of S. 2829 and the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 2829) to make technical corrections to section 1244 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2008, which provides special immigrant status for certain Iraqis, and for other purposes.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I am pleased to join the bipartisan group of Senators on this bill who all recognize our obligation to help those Iraqis who have assisted the United States in Iraq. This legislation will remove obstacles encountered by the Departments of